AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An environmental impact estimation apparatus comprising:

a storage device ~~which stores~~ <u>configured to store</u> information concerning a plurality of first objects ~~to be reused~~ and a plurality of second objects ~~to be recycled~~; and

<u>a display device configured to display selectively the first objects and the second objects based on the information stored in the storage device and configured to draw lines selectively between the first objects and between the second objects;</u>

a modeling device ~~which~~ <u>configured to</u> perform life cycle modeling to generate a life cycle model, the life cycle modeling including reading the information concerning the first objects and the second objects from the storage device, <u>and</u> ~~selecting some of~~ <u>selecting the lines to associate between</u> the first objects and <u>between the</u> second objects <u>for reusing or recycling the first objects and the second objects</u> ~~which are diverted to at least one new product from a recovery product using the information, and combining some of the first objects and the objects to fabricate the new product.~~

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising

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an environmental impact/cost estimating device <u>configured to estimate</u> ~~which estimates~~ an

environmental impact and cost based on the life cycle model generated by the modeling

device.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): An apparatus according to claim 2, which further

comprises a data base <u>configured to store</u> ~~which stores~~ environmental impact information and

cost information, the environmental impact information concerning respective stages of

material acquisition for products, manufacturing, distribution, use, recovery and discharging,

and

wherein the environmental impact/cost estimating device <u>is further configured to</u>

<u>compute</u> ~~computes~~ the environmental impact and cost of the entire series of multi-generation

products based on information generated from the data base and the life cycle model obtained

by the modeling device.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): An apparatus according to claim 1, further

comprising<u>:</u>

a predicting device <u>configured to predict</u> ~~which predicts~~ a supply quantity of ~~at least~~

~~one of~~ the first and second objects using the life cycle model generated by the modeling

device[[,]]<u>;</u> and

an environmental impact/cost estimating device <u>configured to estimate</u> ~~which~~

estimates environmental impact and cost to be burdened in the reuse or recycle from a

prediction result obtained by the this predicting device.

Claims 5-8 (Cancelled).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): An apparatus according to claim 4, which further

comprises a data base configured to store storing environmental impact information and cost

information, the environmental impact concerning respective stages of material acquisition

for products, manufacturing, distribution, use, recovery and discharging, and

wherein the environmental impact/cost estimating device is further configured to

compute computes the environmental impact and cost of the entire series of multi-generation

products based on information generated from the data base and the life cycle modeling result

caused by the modeling device.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A plan aiding apparatus using a recovery product,

comprising:

a storage device configured to store which stores information concerning reuse and

recycle a plurality of first objects and a plurality of second objects;

a display device configured to display selectively the first objects and the second

objects based on the information stored in the storage device and configured to draw lines

selectively between the first objects and between the second objects;

a modeling device ~~which performs~~ configured to perform life cycle modeling to generate a life cycle model, the life cycle modeling including reading the information concerning the first objects and the second objects, which configure a product, from the storage device, ~~selecting some of~~ and selecting the lines to associate between the first objects or second objects for reusing or recycling the first and second objects ~~which are diverted to a new product from the recovery product using the information, and combining selected ones of the objects to fabricate the new product~~; and

a support device ~~which supports the~~ configured to support a plan of ~~the~~ a new product, the support device configured to allocate combined object symbols targeted for diversion and an object symbol of the new product on a screen, and configured to display input windows in correspondence with the object symbols and symbol to associate input product information with the object symbols and symbol, the input product information ~~containing at least any of~~ is at least one information selected from the group consisting of a ~~on~~ product name, previous model, product useful life, product worth life, manufacturing start time, and number of manufactured products.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): An environmental impact estimation method comprising:

storing information concerning a plurality of first objects ~~to be reused~~ and a plurality

of second objects ~~to be recycled~~ in a storage;

displaying on a display device selectively the first objects and the second objects based on the information stored in the storage device, and drawing lines selectively between the first objects and between the second objects;

performing life cycle modeling to generate a life cycle model, the life cycle modeling including reading information concerning the first objects and the second objects, which configure a product, from the storage device[[,]];

selecting ~~some of~~ the lines to associate between the first objects ~~and~~ or second objects for reusing or recycling the first objects and the second objects ~~which are diverted to a new product from a recovery product using the information, and combining selected ones of the first and second objects to fabricate the new product~~; and

estimating an environmental impact and cost based on the life cycle model.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 11, ~~which~~ further ~~includes~~ comprising preparing a data base which stores environmental impact information and cost information, the environmental impact information concerning respective stages of material acquisition for products, manufacturing, distribution, use, recovery and discharging, and

wherein the estimating ~~step~~ includes computing the environmental impact and cost of the entire series of multi-generation products based on information generated from the data

base and the life cycle model.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 11, further comprising predicting a supply quantity of ~~at least one of~~ the first objects and/~~or the~~ second objects using the life cycle model, and estimating environmental impact and cost to be burdened in the reuse or recycle from a prediction result obtained by the predicting ~~step~~.

Claims 14-17 (Cancelled).

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 13, ~~which~~ further ~~comprises~~ comprising preparing a data base storing environmental impact information and cost information, the environmental impact information concerning respective stages of material acquisition for products, manufacturing, distribution, use, recovery and discharging, and

wherein the estimating ~~step~~ includes computing the environmental impact and cost of the entire series of multi-generation products based on information generated from the data base and the life cycle model.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A plan aiding method using a recovery product, comprising:

storing information concerning ~~reuse and recycle~~ a plurality of first objects and a

plurality of second objects in a storage;

displaying on a display device selectively first symbols representing the first objects

and second symbols representing the second objects based on the information stored in the

storage device and drawing lines selectively between the first symbols and between the

second symbols;

performing life cycle modeling to generate a life cycle model, the life cycle modeling

including reading information concerning the first objects and the second objects which

configure a product from the storage[[,]];

selecting the lines to associate between the first objects or the second objects for

reusing or recycling the first objects and the second objects ~~to be diverted to a new product~~

~~from the recovery product using the information and combining selected ones of the objects~~

~~to fabricate the new product~~;

allocating ~~combined~~ the first and second object symbols targeted for diversion and an

object symbol of ~~the~~ a new product on ~~a screen~~ the display device; and

displaying an input screen in correspondence with the first and second object symbols

and the symbol to associate input product information with the object symbols and symbol,

the input product information ~~containing at least any of~~ is at least one information selected

from the group consisting of a ~~on~~ product name, previous model, product useful life, product

worth life, manufacturing start time, and number of manufactured products.

Claim 20 (Original): A predicting method for predicting product recovery comprising:

inputting worth life of a product, useful life of the product, a recovery rate, a product manufacturing period, and the number of products;

generating a distribution of the number of products by calculating the average number of products based on the manufacturing period and the number of products;

generating a distribution of the number of recovery products by setting a recovery period corresponding to the manufacturing period and calculating the number of recovery products based on the number of products and the recovery rate; and

determining a product recovery time by a shorter one of the product worth life and the product useful life.

Claim 21 (Original): A predicting method for predicting product recovery comprising:

inputting worth life of a product, useful life of the product, a recovery rate, a product manufacturing period, and the number of products;

generating a triangle distribution of the number of products, the triangle distribution having a height corresponding to a peak of the number of products;

generating a triangle distribution of the number of recovery products by setting a

recovery period corresponding to the manufacturing period and calculating the number of

recovery products based on a recovery rate corresponding to the number of products; and

determining a product recovery time by a shorter one of the product worth life and the

product useful life.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): A computer program for an environmental impact

estimation stored on a computer readable medium, comprising:

instruction means for instructing a computer processor to store information

concerning a plurality of first objects and a plurality of second objects to be reused and

second objects to be recycled in a storage;

instruction means for instructing the computer to display selectively on a display

device the first objects and the second objects, based on the information stored in the storage

device and instructing the computer to draw lines selectively between the first objects and

between the second objects;

instruction means for instructing the computer processor to perform life cycle

modeling to generate a life cycle model, the life cycle modeling including reading

information concerning the first objects and the second objects, which configure a product,

from the storage device[[,]];

instruction means for instructing the computer to selecting some of select the lines to

associate between the first and second objects for reusing or recycling the first and the second objects which are diverted to a new product from a recovery product using the information and combining selected ones of the first and second objects to fabricate the new product; and

instruction means for instructing the computer processor to estimate an environmental impact and cost based on the life cycle model.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): A computer program according to claim 22, which further includes comprising instruction means for instructing the computer processor to use a data base which stores environmental impact information and cost information, the environmental impact information concerning respective stages of material acquisition for products, manufacturing, distribution, use, recovery and discharging, and wherein

the estimating instruction means includes instruction means for instructing the computer processor to compute the environmental impact and cost of the entire series of multi-generation products based on information generated from the data base and the life cycle model.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): A computer program according to claim 22, further including comprising:

instruction means for instructing the computer processor to predict a supply quantity of at least one of the first and second objects to-be-reused objects and/or to-be-recycled

objects using the life cycle model, and

instruction means for instructing the computer processor to predict environmental impact and cost to be burdened in the reuse or recycle from a prediction result obtained by a processing for predicting the supply quantity.

Claims 25-28 (Cancelled).

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): A computer program according to claim 24, ~~which~~ further ~~comprises~~ comprising instruction means for instructing the computer processor to use a data base storing environmental impact information and cost information, the environmental impact information concerning respective stages of material acquisition for products, manufacturing, distribution, use, recovery and discharging, and wherein

the estimating instruction means includes instruction means for instructing the computer processor to compute the environmental impact and cost of the entire series of multi-generation products based on information generated from the data base and the life cycle model.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): A computer program stored on a computer readable medium for aiding a plan, comprising:

instruction means for instructing a computer processor to store information

concerning ~~reuse and recycle~~ <u>a plurality of first objects and a plurality of second</u> objects in a storage;

<u>instruction means for instructing the computer to display on a display device</u> <u>selectively first symbols representing the first objects and second symbols representing the</u> <u>second objects based on the information stored in the storage device and to draw lines</u> <u>selectively between the first objects and between the second objects;</u>

instruction means for instructing the computer processor to perform life cycle modeling to generate a life cycle model, the life cycle modeling including reading information concerning <u>the first and second</u> objects which configure a product from the storage[[,]]<u>;</u>

<u>instruction means for instructing the computer to</u> ~~selecting~~ <u>select the lines to associate</u> <u>between the first</u> objects <u>or the second objects for reusing or recycling the first and the second</u> <u>objects</u> ~~to be diverted to a new product from the recovery product using the information and~~ ~~combining selected ones of the objects to fabricate the new product~~;

instruction means for instructing the computer processor to allocate ~~combined~~ <u>the first</u> <u>and second</u> object symbols targeted for diversion and an object symbol of the new product on ~~a screen~~ <u>the display device</u>; and

instruction means for instructing the computer processor to display an input screen in correspondence with the object symbols and symbol to associate input product information with the object symbols and symbol, the input product information ~~containing at least any of~~

is at least one information <u>selected from the group consisting of a</u> ~~on~~ product name, previous

model, product useful life, product worth life, manufacturing start time, and number of

manufactured products.

Claim 31 (Original): A computer program stored on a computer readable medium for

aiding a plan, comprising:

instruction means for instructing a computer processor to input worth life of a

product, useful life of the product, a recovery rate, a product manufacturing period, and the

number of products;

instruction means for instructing the computer processor to generate a distribution of

the number of products by calculating the average number of products based on the

manufacturing period and the number of products;

instruction means for instructing the computer processor to generate a distribution of

the number of recovery products by setting a recovery period corresponding to the

manufacturing period and calculating the number of recovery products based on the number

of products and the recovery rate; and

instruction means for instructing the computer processor to determine a product

recovery time by a shorter one of the product worth life and the product useful life.

Claim 32 (Original): A computer program stored on a computer readable medium,

comprising:

instruction means for instructing a computer processor to input worth life of a

product, useful life of the product, a recovery rate, a product manufacturing period, and the

number of products;

instruction means for instructing the computer processor to generate a triangle

distribution of the number of products, the triangle distribution having a height corresponding

to a peak of the number of products;

instruction means for instructing the computer processor to generate a triangle

distribution of the number of recovery products by setting a recovery period corresponding to

the manufacturing period and calculating the number of recovery products based on a

recovery rate corresponding to the number of products; and

instruction means for instructing the computer processor to determine a product

recovery time by a shorter one of the product worth life and the product useful life.